



From the desk of
State Representative **Kelli Linville**

January 2001

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

According to current revenue forecasts, the state of Washington can expect to collect \$22.302 billion in the upcoming budget period (July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2003). We must also remember the spending cap ordered in Initiative 601, which was approved by Washington voters several years ago. This spending limit is \$22.174 billion.

It's further estimated that we will need \$22.2 billion in the new budget to maintain our present level of state programs and services. (Our budget for the current, 1999-2001 biennium is \$20.81 billion.) The financial impact of the recent, voter-approved initiatives means that developing the new budget will be a lot more challenging than usual.

Here are the three most significant measures passed by Washington voters in the November 2000 election:

* **Initiative 728** — "Shall school districts reduce class sizes, extend learning programs, expand teacher training, and construct facilities, funded by lottery proceeds, existing property taxes, and budget reserves?" **I-728 is expected to mandate the use of \$486 million in the budget, which makes this money unavailable for other programs and services.** This measure passed by a 72-percent margin.

* **Initiative 732** — "Shall public school teachers, other district employees, and certain employees of community and technical colleges receive annual cost-of-living salary adjustments, to begin in 2001-2002?" **I-732 will earmark the use of between \$345 million and \$450 million in the budget.** This measure passed by a 62-percent margin.

* **Initiative 722** — "Shall certain 1999 tax and fee increases be nullified, vehicles exempted from property taxes, and property tax increases (except new construction) limited to two percent annually?" **I-722 will reduce available money in the new state budget by another \$39 million.**

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(This initiative is facing a court injunction, and there is a possibility it will be declared unconstitutional.) This measure passed by a 56-percent margin.

The combined impact of these three voter-endorsed initiatives — the total amount of dollars either cut from state revenue or redirected for other use in the state general fund — could be as much as \$975 million.

Clearly, education is a priority for voters. I am committed to implementing the initiatives that voters passed — first and foremost. I also want citizens to understand the difficult choices we must consider as we write the first budget of this new century.

The governor's recent budget proposal includes — among other things — \$1.2 billion in new school funding. He would provide \$470 million in the next two years to reduce class sizes, erect new classrooms, and pursue other education directions. Also, I'm personally encouraged that Governor Locke has made water one of his top priorities. **The governor and I both want to make sure that there is a safe, plentiful water supply for people, farms, and fish.**

Please always feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing your comments — and I encourage you to stay in touch!

Respectfully yours,



Kelli Linville
State Representative
42nd Legislative District

For further information — or to express your comments:

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